



Saturday
DECEMBER 27, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

Be my workout buddy

Looking for a new
gym partner?
There are a few things
you should know

pages 6-7



First ice, now
flooding? **25**

Heat it up with
spicy cocktails **16**

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loved this year **5**

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of baby Bronx **28**

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a spot of tea **9**

Write a song for G-Rod



While out jogging recently, Gov. Blagojevich told a Tribune reporter he runs because "it keeps love in your heart."

RedEye saw those words and instantly thought song.

So let's make it into one.

Here's our challenge to Chicago's aspiring songwriters: Take the lyric "Keep Love In Your Heart" and create a song using it. It can be the title, or just part of a verse, but it must be included in an original song—any kind of song—about Blagojevich.

Every song will be posted at redeyechicago.com. Our staff will choose finalists and a winner.

This isn't a contest to write new lyrics to an existing song. We want you create an original song. And the winner will perform the song live on the WGN Midday News. That's live!

The deadline is Jan. 5. Please e-mail complete songs to blagolove@yahoo.com. Send questions to skleinberg@tribune.com.



Is there life after 'Idol'?

For some, such as Carrie Underwood and Chris Daughtry, the post-"American Idol" path led to riches and viable careers.

But for others, including Carly Smithson (above), the journey has been marked by bitter misfires and disappointments.

Read about Carly's struggle to make it in a post-"Idol" world at redeyechicago.com/lifeafteridol.



58³²

TODAY'S FORECAST

So warm, but SO rainy. T-storms too.



SUN.
34
27

Snow could be back



MON.
48
32

Warm AND sunny



TUE.
34
23

Cooler but sunny



WED.
29
16

Gettin' chilly again



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playlist

sat

The Dirty Social

WEST TOWN
Renowned DJ Eleven of The Rub spins hip-hop, R&B, disco, reggae and more. 9 p.m. Butterfly Social Club, 722 W. Grand Ave. 312-666-1695. No cover

Moroccan night

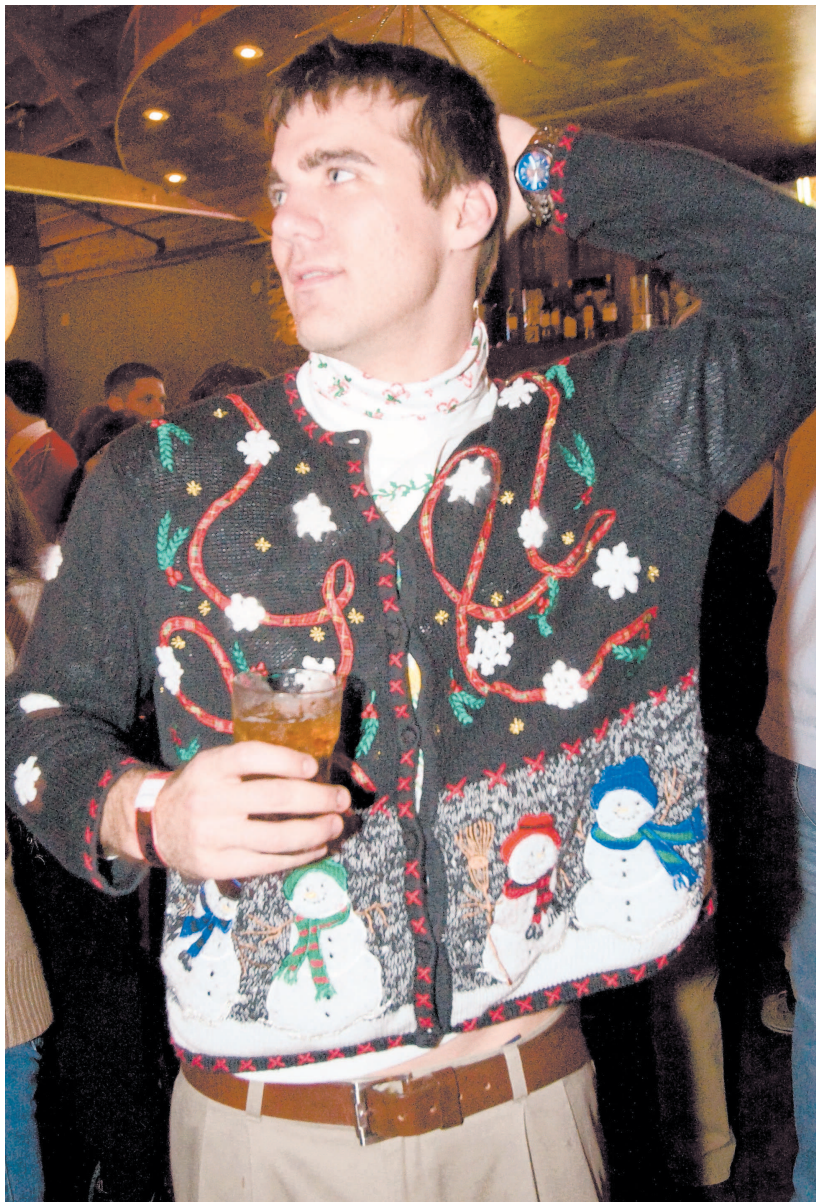
WEST TOWN
Includes a buffet of Mediterranean fare, cocktails and a belly-dancing lesson and show. 7 p.m. Cafe Ciao, 939 W. Madison St. 312-850-2426. \$40.

Ultimate Fighting Championship 92 Viewing Party

LAKEVIEW
Watch the mixed martial arts fight on a big screen live from Madison Square Garden. Don Gibb of "Revenge of the Nerds" hosts with special guest UFC veteran Shonie Carter. 8 p.m. Reservations recommended. Trader Todd's, 3216 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-348-3250. \$50

Mike Epps and Bruce Bruce

SOUTH LOOP
Features sets by Epps (HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and films including "Next Friday" and "All About the Benjamins") and Bruce ("Comedy Central Presents" and MTV's "Nick Cannon's Wild 'N' Out"). 8 p.m. Arie Crown Theatre at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive 312-559-1212. \$70.50-\$90.50



A Bottle Bar patron shows off his bad holiday sweater. **METROMIX FILE**

Bad sweater party

LINCOLN PARK
Wear your most hideous holiday top for a chance to win a Nintendo Wii and other prizes, then leave it behind to be donated to the Salvation Army. 9 p.m. Lion Head Pub/The Apartment, 2251 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-348-5100. No cover.

sun

Sunday suppers & silent movies

NEAR SOUTH SIDE
Features a rotating menu of family-style comfort food and classic films. Also, Sunday is "no corkage fee" night, so BYOB. Open end. \$21; \$9 for kids younger than age 12. Room 21, 2110 S. Wabash Ave. 312-328-1198.

Winter pageant redux

WEST TOWN
Redmoon Theater remounts its long-running spectacle featuring seven masked characters who journey through changing landscapes that represent the four seasons. Expect large scale sets, puppets and songs. 5 p.m. Through Jan. 4. \$10-\$15. Redmoon Central, 1463 W. Hubbard St. 312-850-8440 ext. 111.

'Sunday School Cinema' and 'Dick O'Day's Big Lovely Holiday Bingo'

LINCOLN PARK
From Vicki Quade comes a new interactive comedy in which a strict nun reviews popular films. Former "Wild Chicago" host O'Day hosts a holiday-themed, interactive game show. 3 p.m. Royal George Theatre Center, 1641 N. Halsted St. 312-988-9000. \$35



A mashup of RedEye and **metromix.com**

THE GAMER

Who's playing at home



Wolves vs. Milwaukee
7 p.m., Allstate Arena

HIDDEN AGENDA

Guitar Friends Studio recitals at Heartland Cafe, 7000 N. Glenwood Ave., 773-465-8005; **heartlandcafe.com**

Check it out if you ... enjoy a wide range of music, want to see more Chicago performers without paying for anything but dinner or have been considering taking guitar lessons and need some extra inspiration.

The details: For almost a year, students and teachers at Guitar Friends Studio have been getting together at Heartland Cafe to have dinner and show off their skills. The free performances usually start about 7:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, though the schedule is flexible (the next one is Sunday). You'll find about a dozen performers, primarily high-school students and twentysomethings, playing everything from punk rock to classical to folk on acoustic and electric guitars. The shows typically get some singers and other instruments involved and sometimes include keyboard, violin and banjo. The setting is really casual with people socializing and eating between sets and even guests from the audience occasionally getting up to perform. Students are encouraged to present original music and lyrics, so you can look out for some new material.

The payoff: Expanding your musical horizons while saving your money for a good meal.

wkd

Everything Spring menu

WICKER PARK
The menu features the best dishes from the restaurant's menu from the last seven years. Menu items include tuna nicoise; lemongrass-coconut soup; scallops with braised oxtail; and Thai coffee panna cotta. 5:30 p.m.; Through Dec. 31. Spring, 2039 W. North Ave. 773-395-7100.

Kwanzaa observance program

ILLINOIS MEDICAL DISTRICT
The weeklong celebration opens each day with a traditional Kwanzaa ritual and principle, followed by live dance, music and other performances. 10 a.m. Saturday. 11 a.m. Sunday; Through Jan. 1. Malcolm X Community College, 1900 W. Van Buren St. 312-850-7152. Free.

Chinese New Year Spectacular

WEST LOOP
This touring show features more than a dozen classical Chinese dances performed with a live orchestra and vocalists. 2 and 7 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday. Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive. 312-419-0033. \$38-\$198



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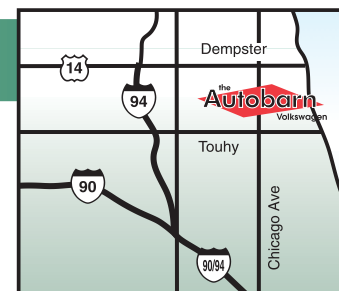
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deja view

fakebook

home profile friends inbox 550,125



What your Facebook profile would look like ... if you had cooler and more powerful friends. RedEye took a crack at President-elect Obama's "Fakebook" profile after he was photographed shirtless in Hawaii this week.

News Feed Status Updates Photos



Barack Obama is a fan of the paparazzi

30 minutes ago — 1 Comment

Malia and Sasha

at 5:14 p.m. Dec. 23

"DAD! This is humiliating! How are we supposed to go to school with you walking around half naked like this?!"



Rod Blagojevich wrote on **Rahm Emanuel's** wall:

"What up, Rahmbo? Thanks for taking the attention off me for a little while. Is O using tanning oil? He's so shiny!"

2 hours ago — Comment



Barack Obama is thinking about doing a little modeling on the side.

3 hours, 15 minutes ago — 1 Comment

Matt Drudge at 11 a.m. Dec. 23

"Dude, I just got, like, sixteen million hits on my site with this photo!"



Michelle Obama sent **Barack Obama** a Right Said Fred CD

15 hours, 56 minutes ago — 1 Comment

"Too sexy for your shirt!"



RedEye posted a news story.

Source: **nypost.com**

"FIT FOR OFFICE:

Buff Bam is Hawaii hunk"

"Buff-bodied President-elect Barack Obama put his chiseled frame on full display—as seen on Page 1—during a stroll in Hawaii while on vacation with his family ..."

18 hours, 3 minutes ago — 156 Comments

WORD OF THE WEEK: YEAR-END EDITION

It's been a long, hard year full of new phrases and weird words. Here's a look at a few favorites from the New York Times' annual list of buzzwords.



Caribou Barbie:

Nickname for Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin

In context: Gov. Palin's wardrobe at the convention was soooooo Caribou Barbie.

Fail:

A massive mishandling of something on the Internet. Also seen as "epic fail" and "bucket of fail."

In context: FAIL!

Joe:

The everyday guy—as in Joe the Plumber and Joe Six-Pack.

In context: Hey, Joe!

Staycation:

Broke? Take a vacation where you don't go anywhere.

In context: Last year, I went to Grand Bahama Island. This year, I staycated in Grant Park.

Hockey mom:

The everyday mom—as in Sarah Palin.

In context: You know what they say about hockey moms ... yada, yada, yada.

Recessionista:

One who once burned money on clothes and bags and now just puts it on her credit card.

In context: All the recessionistas have traded Tiffany's for Target.

Heat index

RedEye takes the temperature of current events



Brad Pitt

Lovable even as an old baby.



Barack Obama

Or should we say abs-bama?



Da Bears

In it to win it.



Gift returns

Thanks, but no thanks.



Potholes

Believe it or not, the worst is yet to blow out your tires.

We can work it out

Is it possible to find a good workout buddy—who's also a stranger—online? It all depends ...

By Ryan Smith
FOR REDEYE

It didn't take long for Dimitri Ajazi to realize his plan for meeting a weightlifting buddy from Craigslist was going south.

Several men had replied to his ad, but most of them just wanted to "hang out" or meet for drinks. He eventually found someone willing to train, but the stranger showed up a half hour late for their scheduled workout at a Bally's Total Fitness in Chicago. When he did arrive, it was obvious the potential partner had no weightlifting experience and Ajazi, who lives in Niles, was acting more as a personal trainer than an equal. That's when he decided to bail.

"I cut my workout short, and realizing I'd be doing little more than teaching him, I told him I had to go," said Ajazi, 36.

His story is not uncommon. From hard-core body-builders to wannabe gym rats, many people in Chicago turn to the Web in search of someone with whom they can pump a little iron or participate in athletic activities. But it doesn't always go according to plan.

A quick glance at the dozens of posts seeking workout buddies on the Activity Partners and Platonic Only sections of Craigslist is evidence of the trend, along with the host of Web sites promising to do the heavy lifting to find you a serious gym partner. Still, local fitness experts say to be wary before leaping into the wilderness of the Web.

"It's good to have a partner, but people should be safe about the Internet because

a lot of bad things can happen," said Michelle Rossfeld, a Gold Coast-based fitness trainer for women, who added that women should be especially careful.

Not that every online experience ends up a horror story. Wicker Park resident April Schneider, 25, was relatively new to Chicago in February when she posted an ad on Craigslist seeking a running partner to join her in training for a half marathon. A few people whom Schneider described as creepy responded, but she eventually received a serious inquiry. That's how she met Gillian Rawling, 29, of Lakeview, who was similar to her in age, location and running ability.

"Most people didn't want to give me their last name or their Facebook page, but Gillian seemed very normal," Schneider said.

They exchanged several e-mails over the next few days before deciding to meet up in a public place to run together. A third person who responded never showed up.

Schneider and Rawling became fast friends.

"It worked out very well," Rawling said. "April and I still run together and we even hang outside of running."

Finding that perfect match for a workout buddy can be difficult, however.

"To me, finding people online sounds more like a dating thing," said Michael Sokol, a fitness trainer and president of Chicago-based One-on-One Training. "The problem is that it's hard because you

want to be in similar shape, have similar goals and schedule and it seems like that might be difficult to find online."

Max Boroumand, 45, knows all about that difficulty. After his wife got pregnant last year, he posted ads on Craigslist in San Francisco seeking a walking partner for her and a squash partner for himself. What he got was fantastically bad results.

"We got a lot of spam, porn and people who wanted a date under the auspices of working out," said Boroumand, who lives in San Rafael, Calif.

As an experiment, he posted the same ads in cities all over the country and realized it wasn't just a West Coast thing.

"A lot of people just wanted to have sex; it was amazing," he said.

Six months ago, Boroumand created a Web site called **fitnesschum.com**. He says the site matches serious members based on factors such as skill level, how often they exercise and what sports they gravitate toward.

The desire to have a workout buddy in the first place is a good one, said Clint Phillips, a personal trainer for fitness Web site **fitchicago.com**.

"One day someone might not want to go and you get dragged by your buddy; it's good accountability," said Phillips. "Also you just have someone to chit-chat with during your workout and it makes it more fun."

Not to mention the costs that come with having a personal trainer. According to Sokol, the average cost of training in Chicago is from \$65 to \$150 an hour.

"If you can't afford a trainer," he said, "finding a partner is certainly a good idea."



April Schneider, 25 (left), and Gillian Rawling, 29, became running partners after they met on Craigslist. They meet once a week to run.

NOLAN WELLS FOR REDEYE

WANTED: A workout partner (who's not shady)

You had a long day at work, it's dark and snowy outside and to top it off, it's the day you're scheduled for abs training. In other words, you're not motivated at all. Fitness experts say that's why having a workout buddy is so important. They tend to keep you accountable when you might rather make it a Blockbuster and pizza night. **RYAN SMITH**

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR FINDING A RELIABLE WORKOUT BUDDY

Ask a family member, friend or co-worker

"It's always good to have someone you know as a partner as long as you're both on the same page as far as routines and schedules," said Clint Phillips, a personal trainer for **fitchicago.com**.

Talk to the front desk person at your gym

"The front desk people see everyone that comes in and they often know what people are looking for," said Brandon Yates, a certified personal trainer at the West Loop Athletic Club. "Tell them what you're looking for, leave your name, and they'll often hook you up."

Be bold and approach someone

"You'd be surprised how many people are looking for the same thing you are," Yates said. "Observe people at your gym that seem to be about your level and introduce yourself."

Use the Internet, but be smart about it

"Craigslist seems hit or miss, but it helped that I exchanged a few e-mails with [my partner] first, and we exchanged Facebook profiles just so we could make sure everything we were saying was more legit," said Lakview resident Gillian Rawling, 29, who found a running partner online.



Training day

By Ryan Smith
FOR REDEYE

Having a good workout buddy is a better alternative than trying to do everything yourself, but personal trainers and local fitness experts say hiring a professional is the best way to go if you can afford it.

The simple act of spending money on a trainer usually makes people more keen on sticking to a plan, experts say. But there are other reasons as well.

One common problem that can arise with workout buddies is that they may tend to tell each other what the other person wants to hear, said Michael Sokol, a fitness trainer and president of Chicago-based One-on-One Training.

"Since ours is a business relationship, we can be honest as far as telling peo-

ple what they need to do to improve," Sokol said. "If you want someone to tell you that you look good, hire a shrink."

It's also possible that a workout partner may be giving you wrong advice.

"You might have a friend who says, 'Hey, here's what I know' and they're teaching you things they learned in high school, but a lot of things have changed, and that's why having a mentor really helps," said Michelle Rossfeld, a Gold Coast-based fitness trainer for women.

Good trainers also have the ability to adjust exercises to the quirks of an individual's body.

"People have different bodies and there's some exercises that some people can't do," Sokol said. "We teach you to protect yourself from injury."

Twitter exercise

We're not afraid to put RedEye's Twitter followers through a tough workout.

They always come through. We asked: Do you have a workout buddy?

Why or why not? Here are some replies. Want to get fit with RedEye?

Go to twitter.com/redeyechicago.

@brittneymoore

Working out with someone else always helps me. He keeps me motivated and inspired to reach my own goals, and I can do the same for him.

@sapphire_05 I call her Richard Simmons & she motivates me 2reach my workout goals ... even when I am cursing her lol

@ariswadkar I have a workout buddy I've been running w/ since Feb. Helps stay focused/motivated.

@circlegetsquare I work out alone. It's good to get some quiet "me" time in to align my Zen Chakras and whatnot. Plus it's more dangerous.

@CottonStar8 i prefer not 2 have a wkout bud, or a trainr. Self-motivatd and 2 busy of a sched

@cfritchle I used to have a workout buddy but then our schedules clashed. But now i'm in and out of the gym in an hour not 2.

@discontinuity I had a workout buddy for a long

time until she got too lazy and complained. After i put off a few pounds I felt more confident to go alone

@elizabeth_ann when i work out (which is rare) i have a buddy because then we push each other... no quitters! alone ... workout lasts 5 min.

@imstephen Nope. But if I did, I would probably work out more.

@jamesamolnar I have a workout buddy to keep me distracted from the task at hand: working out! Who would ever work out without one?!

@dparm My roommate is my workout partner. I go more regularly as a result, and we get a discount on the membership. It's win-win.

@netizenbane Nope! I prefer to work at my own pace and in my own world of headphone

bliss!

@jsortino I have a workout buddy. Only time 2 w/o is 5:30AM. Wouldn't get up that early without the pressure of a buddy.

@amyjfisher does the remote count as a work out buddy ;)

@neosoul I don't have a workout buddy because I like the solace and listening to music during working out. No competing either!

@espio no, mostly because none of my friends work out where I do





MAKE IT

Your NYE reservation

It happens to us every year. New Year's Eve sneaks up so quickly after Christmas that reservations to most fancy-dress parties elude us. Well, consider this your official reminder: Reserve your spot now. Tickets are drying up quickly, but we suggest making a concerted effort to hit up the top-floor shindig at Gold Coast club **C-View** (166 E. Superior St. 312-523-0923). Your \$99 ticket scores you access to the premium open bar, as well as party favors, a champagne toast and a heck of a view of the city. Or call ahead to nab space at the black-tie affair at **Hub 51** (51 W. Hubbard St. 312-828-0051), where \$125 gets you drinks at the open bar, champagne and tunes by DJs Konzept and Mr. Joshua. No time to make reservations? Don't want to sacrifice the dough? Stay tuned to metromix.com on Monday for our annual NYE ticket giveaway for these parties and more.



SKIP IT

Big-wig NYE

No cash to spend on New Year's Eve? We feel your pain. Skip the \$100 cover charge and opt to party on the down-low. Consider heading to **The Globe Pub** (1934 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-871-3757) to toast Britain's New Year with a complimentary champagne toast at 6 p.m., then head to dinner at **Silver Cloud** (1700 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-6212). Make reservations this weekend for Silver Cloud's four-course dinner, which includes your choice of prime rib, salmon cakes or cider chicken, plus an appetizer, salad, dessert and half-bottle of champagne for \$29.95. If you're raring to dance, ring in 2009 sans cover charge at **The Whistler** (2421 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-3530). Order up a newly hatched winter cocktail—or hey, PBR ranks pretty high on our champagne-of-beers list—and rock away to the tunes of DJs Jeff Parker and Clerical Error. For more no-reservations New Year's Eve parties, visit metromix.com.

the it list

What's hot this weekend

By
Lisa
Balde

BIKE IT

Logan Square Winter Bike Tour

Work off your Christmas leftovers while discovering Logan Square's hidden gems during Big Shoulders Realty's monthly bike tour on Saturday. Unlike marathon races where time and distance is key, this leisurely ride focuses on community history and architecture. Meet at the **Illinois Centennial Monument** (2600 N. Kedzie Blvd.) at 1 p.m. for the guided tour, which stops at the Congress Theater, the Logan Theater, St. Mary of the Angels Church and several other locations. This previously scheduled ride stops for no month—yes, there's one in January too—but in case temperatures linger below zero, call ahead to make sure the tour's still on. BYO bike, helmet and appropriate outdoor wear. No bike? Borrow one onsite. 773-481-0244 ext. 1. Free.

PLAY IT

Holiday Sports Festival

With gift shopping and turkey basting officially out of the way, New Year's resolutions are upon us. And though it's tempting to mark yourself down for daily cheeseburger lifts and extra visits to Starbucks, you know as well as we do that resolutions weren't meant to be easy. Set the tone for a healthy new year at Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival at **McCormick Place** (2301 S. Lake Shore Drive. 312-744-3315) for a bonanza of exercise classes and health screenings from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday through Monday. Though kids' events happen all weekend, head to the Fitness Area for adult classes and consultations. Meet with personal trainers to devise your 2009 workout routine or get aerobic tips during cardio kickboxing and salsa workshops. Free.

CHIRP IT

Indie radio concerts

Ever since Loyola University took back control of WLUW (88.7-FM) last year, former station employees have continued to champion locally based radio via CHIRP, the Chicago Independent Radio Project. Among the group's most recent initiatives is a series of local rock shows. This weekend, CHIRP sponsors two: the **Fourth Annual Alex Chilton Birthday Bash** (8 p.m., \$10), featuring local rockers Allá, Certain Stars and others paying tribute to the power-popper Sunday at Empty Bottle (1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600), and the **Home for the Holidays** show at Metro (3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203) Saturday starring Lucky Boys Confusion (6 p.m., \$20). Get info from CHIRP reps before and after the show.

LISA BALDE IS THE METROMIX PRINT EDITOR.
LBALDE@TRIBUNE.COM



Allá

Steep thoughts

Make time for tea this holiday season

By M. Kathleen Pratt

Think tea is only for 18th Century revolutionaries and old ladies in white gloves? The holidays are a perfect time to re-evaluate. If you're looking to entertain out-of-towners or seeking a respite from post-holiday shoppers, escape to one of these spots for a spot of tea.

The Palm Court at the Drake

140 E. Walton Pl. 312-787-2200

It doesn't get much more traditional than the holiday tea at the Drake Hotel, where harp music sets the stage for a spread of finger sandwiches, scones and French pastries.

When: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday; noon-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Jan. 4; fully booked Dec. 27
Cost: \$31.95. Reservations: 312-932-4615

Atwood Cafe

1 W. Washington St. 312-368-1900

State Street shoppers can duck into this

classic spot in the Hotel Burnham for a holiday tea offering a parade of tea cakes, mini-sandwiches, scones and pastries.

When: 2-4 p.m. daily through Tuesday
Cost: \$28.

Palmer House Hilton

17 E. Monroe St. 312-726-7500

The regal second-floor lobby at this iconic Loop hotel hosts afternoon tea year-round, but it's extra festive this time of year. Expect finger sandwiches, pastries and scones.

When: 2-4 p.m. daily
Cost: \$35. Reservations: 312-917-3404

Chalkboard

4343 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-477-7144

Get off the downtown path at this neighborhood spot in Lincoln Square, where service includes finger sandwiches, scones and pastries for less than you'd pay at the hotels.

When: 2-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Cost: \$19

Greenhouse at the Ritz-Carlton

160 E. Pearson St. 312-573-5154

This hideaway on the 12th floor of the Ritz-



Holiday tea at the Drake Hotel
TRIBUNE FILE

Carlton offers tea year-round, and it's one of the most popular in town. Tea includes mini-scones, cookies and more. It's booked through December, but you still can snag reservations New Year's Day and beyond.

When: 2:30-5 p.m. daily
Cost: \$27

Wave at the W Hotel-Lakeshore

644 N. Lake Shore Drive. 312-255-4460

At this trendy spot, the dual "Unitea" menu isn't just for the ladies. One menu is designed for guys (think mini-Angus sliders

and beef tartare toasts) and another caters to gals (chilled shrimp and cucumber salad, curried deviled eggs); both include sweets such as fruit tarts and scones.

When: 2:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday
Cost: \$30 for tea; add a tea-infused martini for \$40, bubbly for \$45, beer for \$38

All teas offer champagne or sparkling wine for an additional charge. Reservations are strongly recommended.

M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER.
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date night

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Date-o-meter:

Blind date
First date
* **Seal the deal**
Special occasion
Double date
Relationship date

Cocktails with class

After a year of serving up classic cocktails in a hush-hush, speakeasy atmosphere, The Violet Hour's no big secret around here. But now that your date's gotten wind of the recent national press attention (in Esquire's "Best Bars," GQ's "Top 20 Cocktails" and The New York Times, no less) and wants to know what all the fuss is about, a date night may be in order. Here's a warning: It's still hot as ever.

The basics: If you don't get lucky after taking a date here, your mack needs a major overhaul; this real-life speakeasy (minus the Prohibition aspect, obvs) is quiet, sexy and intimate. The entrance protocol remains the same: Head into the unassuming entrance (marked only by a lightbulb) and depending on whether there is seating available, the doorman will usher you to your seat or put your cell phone number on the wait list.

Noise level: The atmosphere remains hushed and conversation-friendly. The music varies but blends into the background, and gabbing (or

even texting) on your cell is taboo. If given the choice, avoid the urge to sit in the high-backed chairs; though they're inviting, they make for difficult conversation. Instead, nestle into a booth, or sit at the bar for a close-up view of the cocktail-making.

What to order: You can't go wrong with any selection here. The Violet Hour is one of the few bars around town that treats its bartenders like gourmet chefs, and they act like it, laboring over drinks with painstaking care. If you're lucky, you'll even spy Toby Maloney, the big-time New York mixologist who helped launch The Violet Hour, mixing behind the bar.

Go ahead and order the Juliet & Romeo (\$12), the cocktail that scored the nod from GQ. Gin lovers will savor this blend of Beefeater, mint, cucumber and rosewater. In the mood for a milkshake with a kick? Try the Chicago Flip (\$12), a rich concoction of Frapin VS cognac, egg, Dow's Tawny Port, cream and nutmeg.

Icebreaker: Impress your date with



The Violet Hour's
Toby Maloney
FILE FOR METROMIX

this literati tidbit: The bar's name comes from "The Hour" by Bernard DeVoto, in which it's described as: "The hour of hush and wonder when the affections glow again and valor is reborn..."

REDEYE RELATIONSHIP COLUMNIST GINA B.
IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

Gina B.'s inside tips

» The Violet Hour is **consistently full**, even on weeknights. If you want immediate seating, arrive early. Doors open at 6 p.m.

» The **lengthy cocktail menu** can be intimidating, so don't shy away from asking for a recommendation.

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Saturday

THE ASSEMBLY, THE MIDNIGHT SHOWS, INCHWORM
9:30 p.m. \$8.
Subterranean,
2011 W. North Ave.
housecallent.com

BATTLE OF THE SAXES FEATURING VON FREEMAN AND ED PETERSEN
8 p.m. \$10-\$15. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

COREY WILKES AND BLACK SLANG
9:30 p.m. \$15. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

I LUV LUV BIRDS, THE CHAIRS, SIX AND A HALF FURLONGS
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. mpshows.com

LIL' WAYNE, T-PAIN, KEYSHIA COLE, GYM CLASS HEROES, BEN ONE
6 p.m. \$45.75-\$85.75. United Center, 1901 W. Madison St. 312-559-1212.

LIVERPOOL LEGENDS
8 p.m. \$20-\$40. Star Plaza Theatre, 8001 Delaware Pl., Merrillville, Ind. 312-559-1212.

LUCKY BOYS CONFUSION, MARK ROSE, LOVE ME ELECTRIC,

Metromix's top shows

MY MORNING JACKET
We wish we could order the "Peanut butter pudding surprise" they sing about in "Highly Suspicious."
7:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. \$39.50.
The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-559-1212.

LAUREN FROST
Up-and-coming Chicago singer-songwriter helps you groove and drift away.
9 p.m. Sun. \$5. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

OH MY GOD, BRIGHTON, MA
Locals wind down the year with a bang and a twang.
9 p.m. Sat. \$6-\$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.



CAVASHAWN
6 p.m. \$17.50-\$20. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

MACABRE, CIANIDE, ELFBIS, SPARE CHANGE
10 p.m. \$10-\$12. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER
8 p.m. \$30-\$65. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 312-559-1212.

PAUL GREEN'S SCHOOL OF ROCK

ALLSTARS
5:30 p.m. \$12. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

PEARLS MAHONE AND THE ONE EYED JACKS
8 p.m. \$8-\$10. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

RICH CORPOLONGO GROUP
9:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

ROBBIE FULKS, THE LONG GONE LONESOME BOYS

9 p.m. \$15. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 312-559-1212.

RUSTED ROOT, BACKYARD TIRE FIRE
9 p.m. \$33-\$34.50. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

SILVER GUN, GROOVESHIRE, THE MOTHER Z'S, CHRIS MCCARTHY
8:30 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

THE WACO BROTHERS
10 p.m. \$12-\$14. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

Sunday

ALEX CHILTON BIRTHDAY BASH: ALLA, CERTAIN STARS, DOLLY VARDEN, THE DRYSALES, EVENING BELLS, THE INJURED PARTIES, JERK ALERT, THE NEW FICTION, JEREMY PORTER, RED WIGGLERS, TENNIS COURTS, WELCOME TO

ASHLEY
8 p.m. \$10. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

BRIENN PERRY ORCHESTRA
6 p.m. \$8. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

DEXTER, ZIKR
8 p.m. \$5-\$8. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

JAZZ JAM WITH ISAIAH SPENCER
9:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

MUSTARD PLUG, DEALS GONE BAD, DAN POTTHAST, THE DRASTICS
5:30 p.m. \$11-\$13. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

OVERMAN, JOIE DE VIVRE, WE THE TREES, WILL JACOBS AND DIRTY DEAL, WEIGHT IN WORDS
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR, POWERSPACE
7 p.m. \$10-\$12. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

ON-SALE TICKETS**On sale 10 a.m. Saturday**

72 Hours, Cobalt and the Hired Guns, Saturday, Jan. 24 (\$8, 21+) at Double Door.

Joey Beltram, Dietrich Schoenemann, Frankie Vega, Bill Bishop, Johnny Armstrong, Friday, Feb. 6 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Busy P, James Amato, Skyler, Saturday, March 21 (\$15, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Colette, DJ Heather, John Simmons, Saturday, Feb. 28 (\$10-\$15, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Drumcell, Kero, Antiphase, Jeff Pietro, Friday, Jan. 9 (\$5, 21+) at Smart Bar.

The Foreign Exchange, Friday, Jan. 30 (\$25, 21+) at Double Door.

Jerome Holloway and Friends, Sunday, Feb. 8 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Kaskade, Jose Zaragoza, Just Joey, Saturday, Feb. 7 (\$12-\$15, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Pat Mahoney, Andy Butler, OneFiftyOne, Friday, Feb. 27 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Parlor Mob, Suede Brothers, Saturday, Feb. 21 (\$10, 21+) at Double Door.

Mike Shannon, Popkan, Gianna Hardt, Hernan Sanchez, James Lauer, Thursday, Feb. 12 (\$5-\$10, 21+) at Smart Bar.

Two Girls, Dark Fog, The Living Blue, Saturday, Jan. 17 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

On sale now

AA Bondy, Saturday, March 7 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Sam Barsh, Thursday, Feb. 12 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Blessid Union of Souls, Thursday, Jan. 22 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Chili A GoGo, Saturday, Jan. 24 (\$5, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Tim Fite, Benjy Ferree, Wednesday, Feb. 25 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

The Foundry Field Recordings, Friday, Feb. 27 (\$8, 21+) at Schubas.

Katie Herzig, The Spring Standards, Wednesday, Jan. 28 (\$10, 18+) at Schubas.

Loney Dear, Sunday, March 1 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Marah, Friday, Feb. 13 (\$15, 21+) at Schubas.

Andy McKee, Friday, Feb. 27 (\$15, all ages) at Schubas.

David Mead, Brad Peterson, Thursday, Feb. 12 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Steve Wynn, Tuesday, Jan. 20 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.



Sophomore SOULJA

Hip-hop's leading trickster figure, Soulja Boy, 18, has spent most of the last year and a half titillating teenagers and infuriating purists with minimalist party rap and a gleeful disregard for things as they are usually done. "Crank That (Soulja Boy)," the song that launched thousands of YouTube dance videos, made him impossible to avoid and also, he would like you to know, impossibly rich.

His debut album, "souljaboytellem.com," was puerile and intoxicating. The follow-up, "iSouljaBoyTellem," which dropped last week, is sometimes dazzling, sometimes numbing, but no less fascinating. Soulja Boy's own productions, which take up half the album, are gurgling and dizzying.

The album's highlight is "Hey You There," a spectacular, bizarre, vaudevillian mashup of Dr. Demento, Mele Mel and Lil Jon in which he adopts at least four different voices. Compared with much hip-hop, or anything else for that matter, it's mayhem.

"Turn My Swag On" is little more than a series of hooks lashed together, held tight by apocalyptic synths and an indestructible self-regard: "I got a question, why they hating on me?/Ain't did nothing to 'em but count this money." **NEW YORK TIMES**

GETTY IMAGES FILE



ALBUM
iSouljaBoyTellem
Soulja Boy



LOVE IT



WEB CLIP

"The year's best viral videos: A retrospective"

Leave it to **videogum.com**, an offshoot of uber insider music site **stereogum.com**, to compile of best-of list composed of videos we haven't even seen yet. But for all the under-the-radar vids (which are hilarious, by the way), the clip comes through with old standbys from the year gone by—including the chubby cup cake kid, that dude dancing to Beyonce and, of course, a candid Bill O'Reilly shouting "We'll do it live!" on "Inside Edition back" in the day.

JIM WALSH, REDEYE

LIKE IT

BOOK
"The Man Who Owns The News: Inside the Secret World of Rupert Murdoch," By Michael Wolff



Global media tycoon Rupert Murdoch captured the world's attention as he never had before by acquiring the Wall Street Journal last year. Part of Murdoch's celebration was to allow journalist Michael Wolff access to himself and the Murdoch family for a book that would tell the story of the protracted Journal takeover and summing up, to date, Murdoch's zigzag journey toward his newspaper-books-television-Internet empire.

DAVID HENDRICKS, NYT NEWS SERVICE

TV
"The Dog Whisperer"
7 p.m. Sunday,
National Geographic

Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz and his pop-star wife Ashlee Simpson-Wentz



welcomed baby boy Bronx Mowgli in November. But before their

blessed event, the pair called upon Cesar Millan to make sure their English bulldogs Hemingway and Rigby (above) wouldn't eat the newborn. Maybe that's overstating, but that would have been more exciting than their real issue. Far more interesting is Cesar's intervention with Cricket, a retriever who attacks anyone who comes near his food.

CURT WAGNER, REDEYE

LOATHE IT

GAME
"Rise of the Argonauts"
For the Xbox 360,
PlayStation 3



Achilles and all those other Greek legends? It's a great idea for a role-playing game—and one that game maker Codemasters has botched. Sloppy graphics, tedious dialog scenes and unimaginative hack-and-slash combat sink this ship before it gets launched.

LOU KESTEN, AP.

TV
"A Kiss at Midnight"
8 p.m. Saturday, Hallmark

If you thought Christmas meant the end of Hallmark's holiday schlockfest, think again. New Year's Eve is coming, and the network can't resist this sweet-as-Christmas-candy tale that has the owners of competing matchmaking services (Faith Ford and Cameron Daddo) being set up by his precocious—translation: annoying—young daughters. You'll laugh, you'll cry. You'll reach for the remote.

CURT WAGNER, REDEYE



- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ■ 11:40,20:50,40:10,7:30,9:40
- **Brat/Snixon** (R) ■ 12:50,4:25,7:20,10:15
- **Marley & Me** (PG) ■ 11:30,40:10,45:30,7:30,10:15
- **Ensign & Button** (PG) ■ 11:25,13:10,15:55,4:35,6:35,8:30,10:10
- **The Reader** (R) ■ 12:30,2:00,5:00,9:55
- **The Spirit** (PG-13) ■ 11:55,2:30,5:00,7:40,10:20
- **The Wrestler** (R) ■ 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:25
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ■ 1:35,4:25,7:15,10:05
- **Doubt** (PG-13) ■ 11:30,2:05,4:50,7:30,10:05
- **Four Christmases** (PG) ■ 11:50,15:10,30
- **Milk** (R) 12:00,3:50,7:10,10:20
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 12:15
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ■ 14:30,31:40,34:05,6:35,9:00,10:25
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:05,4:00,7:05,10:10
- **Hardwood** (PG-13) ■ 1:35,5:40,8:45,12:20,9:50
- **Tale of Two Cities** (PG) ■ 11:45,14:35,7:00,9:25
- **Yes Mad** (PG-13) ■ 11:00,2:40,4:45,6:20,7:50,8:55

www.zap2it.com

CHECK OUT

THE WEEKEND'S BEST
EVENTS AND BARGAINS

Lissa on Maxwell

729 W. Maxwell St.; 312-563-9470
lissaonmaxwell.com

The women's boutique marks down its entire inventory by 30 percent to 50 percent. Winter coats are 40 percent off and select fall items are 70 percent off.

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Andina Buenos Aires

1740 W. Division St.; 773-227-6225

At the leather accessories store, shoppers get 20 percent off all full-price merchandise. Free gifts are included with purchases more than \$150.

Lori's Shoes

824 W. Armitage Ave., plus six other Chicagoland locations; 888-334-SHOE

lorissshoes.com

The store takes 30 percent to 50 percent off selected fall and winter styles, gloves, scarves and handbags throughout the month.

**15%
off**

Veruca Salt

1921 N. Damen Ave., 773-276-9888
521 N. Kingsbury St., 773-276-3888

shopverucasalt.com

The women's boutique Veruca Salt offers 15 percent off an entire purchase through the end of the month.

**Voila!**

Say "oui" and inject some French style into your wardrobe with a kinky purple beret from David and Young. \$16 at Nordstrom

Code purple

**Miss mini**

This J. Crew wool mini skirt will look great paired with dark tights and boots for a hot date. \$98 at J. Crew

Purple has become the color of fashion royalty. Whether rich and dark or fashion forward and light, the regal hue has made a huge mark on winter fashion. Get in the zone with purple-powered picks.

JOANNA GUSTAFSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Brace yourself

This Coach bangle has a decent price and adds class and style to outfits both casual and fancy.
\$78 at Coach

**Preppy purple**

Pair this striped Forever 21 belt with pants or cinch it at your waist around a cute dress. \$6.90 at Forever 21



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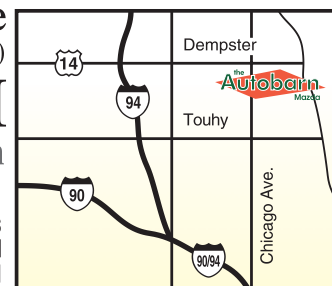
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Hot drinks, cold nights

Houston Chronicle

Before central heating, wassail and other warm, spice-laden drinks warded off winter's chill. But this winter, bartenders are blazing the way for the hottest cocktail trend since 19th-century bartender Jerry Thomas set a match to his classic brandy blazer.

The latest quenchers are pepper-infused cocktails. On the Scoville heat scale, they can be as mellow as an ancho chile or as fiery as a habanero.

Madras mojito

To make sweet-and-sour, combine equal parts water and sugar in a saucepan. Simmer until sugar dissolves to make simple syrup. Add equal parts of the same measure of lime juice and lemon juice; mix. It will keep well, covered, in the refrigerator. Guava puree is available at most Indian grocers and Fiesta Marts. You also can purchase canned guava and puree it in a blender or food processor.

- » Cayenne pepper
- » 4 to 6 fresh mint leaves
- » Sugar
- » 1½ ounces Old Monk dark rum
- » 2 ounces sweet-and-sour
- » 1 ounce guava puree

Rim a martini glass with the cayenne; set aside.

In a martini shaker, muddle the mint leaves with a dash of sugar. Fill two-thirds of the shaker with ice and add the rum and sweet-and-sour. Shake vigorously for 5 seconds and strain into a martini glass.

Float guava puree on top and serve immediately.

Makes 1 serving.



Ginger margarita

To make simple syrup, combine equal parts water and sugar in a saucepan. Simmer until sugar dissolves.

- » 1 quarter-size slice ginger
- » 1 (¼-inch-wide) red Thai chile
- » 1½ ounces Tezon tequila reposado
- » ½ ounce Cointreau
- » ½ ounce lime juice
- » ½ ounce simple syrup

In a martini shaker, muddle the ginger and chile. Fill two-thirds of the shaker with ice.

Add tequila, Cointreau, lime juice and simple syrup. Shake vigorously for 5 seconds. Pour ice and margarita into a large glass.

Makes 1.

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In some parts of England, rum is used to wash a baby's head for good luck.

The most popular ethnic food in the United States is Italian food.

Dandelion root can be roasted and ground as a coffee substitute.

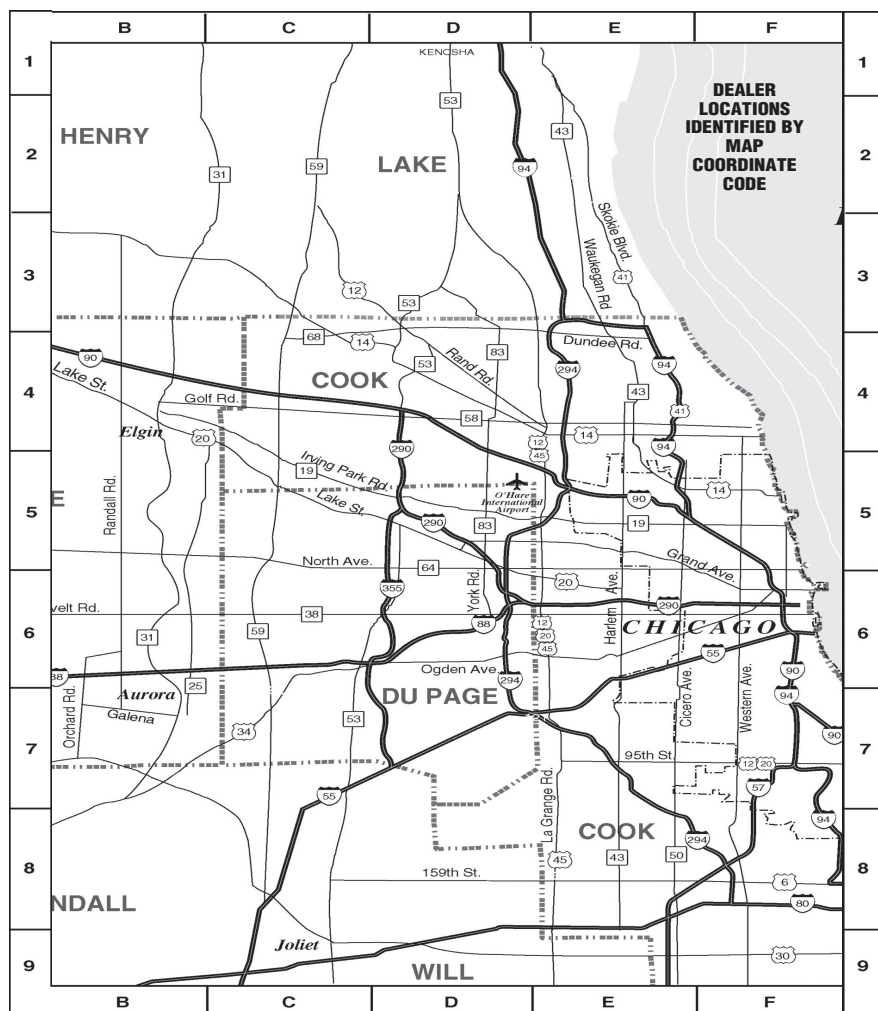
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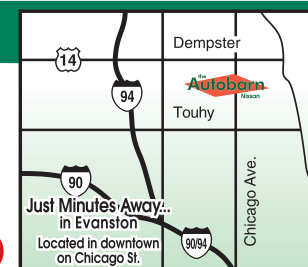
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Here's what I'm watching this weekend.

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NFL Bears at Houston
Noon Sunday, Fox
Enjoy the weather, boys.

NHL Blackhawks at Minnesota
5 p.m. Sunday, CSN
I want this win—mainly out of spite for Minnesota.

That's a wrap

Quarterback looks back on playing days at NU

By Michael Hines
REDEYE

For five years, quarterback C.J. Bacher has practiced, studied and played nothing but football at Northwestern. So what does he like to do in his

down time? Watch more football, of course. “With all the film that we watch, you’d think I’m sick of football, but I really can’t get enough of it,” Bacher told RedEye as the Wildcats prepared for Monday’s game against Missouri in the Alamo

Bowl. RedEye caught up with the senior QB after a recent practice to get his thoughts on Chicago, his future plans and his final days as a Northwestern football player.



Bacher
AP FILE

You’re from Sacramento, a warm-weather city. Have you gotten used to the winters here?
Slowly. I’ve gotten a better wardrobe. I’ve got better coats now, but it’s still tough to adjust.

Have you adopted any Chicago sports teams?
I’m a New York fan. My dad was born and raised in New York, so I adopted all his teams. But I have become a Cubs fan a little bit. I wouldn’t cheer for them against the Yankees, but luckily they’re in opposite leagues. But I do enjoy going to Wrigley and watching the Cubs.

So does that mean your dream is to play for the New York Jets or New York Giants?
I’d probably want to play for the Bears, to tell you the truth. I love Chicago. [Former Northwestern linebacker] Nick Roach is on the team, and he loves it there.

What are your plans after the Alamo Bowl?
I’m going to do everything I can to try to make it in football. If that doesn’t work out, I’m going to try to get into finance or real estate.

What has been your most memorable moment at Northwestern?
Walking off the field after the [2008 regular-season finale] Illinois game. We put in so much [effort] in the off-season and dedicated ourselves to our team. To walk off that field for the last time with a 9-3 record and put ourselves in a real good position for the bowl committees—it was a great feeling and a great culmination to our season.

Five on one

Wanna weigh in on the sports teams that have been naughty or nice? Sign up for weekday Five on Five at redye.chicago.com/fiveonfive.



THE TOPIC

Gift giving is over. Time for returns. What in Chicago sports would you send back?



JIMMY GREENFIELD
jgreenfield@tribune.com

Rational thought about the fate of Chicago’s sports teams.



TRACY SWARTZ
tswartz@tribune.com

The Bears. Unfortunately, even Devin Hester is having trouble returning them.



MICHAEL HINES
mhines@tribune.com

Kosuke Fukudome. I can’t stand gag gifts.



BRIAN MOORE
brmoore@tribune.com

Definitely all the hype around Bears kick returner Devin Hester. OVER-RATED!

SUPRIYA DOSHI
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For starters, the Cubs’ brief playoffs appearance. That’s a gift that doesn’t keep on giving.



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20 questions

Everything you ever wanted to know about random topics in the news

Who was Susan Komen, the highly publicized cancer victim?

Susan G. Komen of Peoria, a former beauty queen noted for her kindness, was 36 when she died of breast cancer in 1980. Two years later, Komen's younger sister, Nancy Brinker, started the Susan G. Komen Foundation in her memory.

The foundation oversees the 5K Race for the Cure and the three-day Walk for the Cure in many cities.

How is the Dow Jones Industrial Average figured?

The Dow Jones Industrial Average made its debut on May 26, 1896, and today is the most commonly used indicator of stock price trends in the U.S. It's based on

the price of 30 industrial stocks selected by the editors of The Wall Street Journal.

In newspapers, in people's quotes, sometimes you see (sic). What does that mean?

When used within brackets or parentheses, (sic) indicates the quoted passage contains an error or something questionable and is not an editorial mistake.

When did Peking become Beijing and Bombay become Mumbai?

Although Mumbai was changed from Bombay in 1995, the former name remains popular among Westerners and many of the city's inhabitants and famous institutions.

The Chinese capital did not change

its name; rather, the English spellings of Chinese words were changed. The People's Republic of China, established in 1949, adopted the pinyin system for spelling Chinese names and places in Roman letters. Beijing also has been known as Ji, Zhongdu and Dadu.

What is considered a middle-class income for Americans?

There is no official definition of middle class. Last year, the Congressional Research Service, a government entity that assists at each stage of the legislative process, issued a report putting middle-class income between \$19,000 a year and \$91,000 a year, depending on family size.

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

'Sex' book gets face-lift

New York Times News Service

With its forthright prose, little-before-discussed-in-the-suburbs erotic advice and amusing pictures of an ardent naked person known popularly as the Hairy Man, "The Joy of Sex" was a revolution in its time. Published in 1972, the book thrust itself into public consciousness with all the subtlety of a gigolo at a convention of bishops. It also was stunningly popular, a well-thumbed fixture of bedside tables across America that spent 343 weeks on the New York Times best-seller list.

The book has undergone various tweaks over the years, and six years ago the Hairy Man and his somewhat less hairy female partner were relegated to wherever old hippies go to retire. But now comes a revised version of the book, written, for the first time, for women as much as for men. It tackles an array of modern topics unheard of in the 1970s, like Internet pornography and Viagra, and features photographs (and drawings, when things get too graphic) of a buff 21st-Century couple.

But still. In a society where, if anything, people talk and think far too much about sex already, what is the point of reading anything else about it? Is there anything new to say?

Yes, indeed, said Susan Quilliam, a British sexologist, advice columnist and relationship counselor who extensively revised the book, which will make its American debut next month. People desperately need help in negotiating the culture's bewildering sexual messages, she said.



THE REVISER

Susan Quilliam, who is 58 and divorced, was hired to rewrite "The Joy of Sex" by its British publisher, Mitchell Beazley. (The original book was British, as was its author, Dr. Alex Comfort, who died in 2000). Quilliam already had written a number of sex and relationship books. She also had fond memories of discovering the original book with her boyfriend in Liverpool back in the day. One weekend, they saw the book, which belonged to one of his roommates. "We disappeared into his room and came out at the end of the weekend," she said.

Traffic troubles

A post-Christmas storm Friday covered Illinois roadways and train tracks with ice and caused some of the worst driving conditions in years.

Authorities spent all morning responding to spinouts, rollovers and fender benders. The Illinois State Police District Chicago logged 46 crashes before 9 a.m. Friday, with 14 of those incidents causing injuries, Sgt. Juan Valenzeula said.

In response, area police forces shut down stretches of roadways, including, at one point, the entire Indiana Toll Road between the Illinois and Ohio borders.

"If we had the manpower, we'd close down every expressway in the area," one State Police dispatcher said. Among the traffic incidents:

» Linda Ghilardi, 46, and her son, Lawrence Jett, 22, of Holiday Hills were killed after the vehicle Ghilardi was driving collided with a garbage truck near Moraine Hills State Park, police said. It was the only fatal accident reported in northeast Illinois.

» A collision involving 10 vehicles caused delays on the inbound Kennedy Expressway at Cumberland Avenue, Illinois State Police said.

» Police described the traffic situation on the Dan Ryan and Bishop Ford Expressways as "insane," with crashes in both directions between 31st and 111th Streets.

» CTA and Metra reported substantial delays on buses and trains, as well as some service suspension.



A motorist peeks from her car Friday to see why traffic has backed up in the southbound lanes of I-55. A semi-trailer had jackknifed on an icy bridge on the freeway over Route 53 near Bolingbrook. **CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE**

ICE MAKES WAY FOR FLOODING

An ice storm across the city Friday gave way to a new threat: potentially severe rain and flooding.

"It's a Catch-22," said Marisa Kollias, spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Transportation. "We're getting rid of one problem—the ice—but we're getting another problem with the flooding."

Rising temperatures possibly up to 60 degrees are expected to melt much of the snow and ice Saturday.

Emergency officials estimate the thaw could mean as much as 2 to 3 inches of snow melt. Heavy rain forecast throughout the weekend could add another 1 to 3 inches to the deluge.

With the ground frozen solid and many storm drains clogged with ice, the runoff water could spill onto creeks, streams, rivers and even roads, experts said. Emergency officials from Des Plaines to Chicago and Oak Lawn were on alert for what one emergency official

"It's a Catch-22. We're getting rid of one problem—the ice—but we're getting another problem with the flooding."

MARISA KOLLIAS
spokeswoman for
the Illinois Department
of Transportation

feared could amount to record flooding.

The National Weather Service issued flash-flood warnings stretching from central through northern Illinois and northwest Indiana.

"We're going to melt much of the snow and ice. How much and how rapidly is the uncertainty," said meteorologist Casey Sullivan with the National Weather Service.

Water Department Commissioner John Spatz asked residents not to park above curbside catch basins, which drain water

from rain and melted snow into the sewer system.

On Friday, city crews were working frantically to clean those basins—numbering about 250,000 city-wide, or six or seven per block, according to Spatz.

He also appealed to people to clear basins in their neighborhoods of slush, ice and snow. "If they could help out, we'd appreciate it," he said.

Santa gunman planned to run away to Canada

Law enforcement officials say the gunman who killed nine people in a Christmas Eve attack at his ex-in-laws' Covina, Calif., home intended to flee to Canada but was severely burned before he killed himself.

Police said Friday that after the shootings, 45-year-old Bruce Jeffrey Pardo used a home-made device to torch the home. He suffered third-degree burns, authorities say, and his Santa suit actually melted onto his body. After Pardo shot himself to death at his brother's home, authorities found \$17,000 on him and a plane ticket for a flight from L.A. to Canada.

Police did not identify the victims of the massacre, but believe his ex-wife, Sylvia, and her parents were among the dead.

Flight stuck in snow

A Southwest Airlines flight bound for L.A. out of Midway Airport on Friday got stuck in the snow. All 94 passengers on board Flight 688 were taken off the plane and bused back to a terminal, city officials said. There were no injuries.

'Grinch' suspect arrested

A 20-year-old Schaumburg man was scheduled to appear in Bond Court Friday on charges that he broke into a Bartlett home and stole Christmas presents. David Olson of the 900 block of Santuit Court was charged with residential burglary after his arrest Thursday.

Quiet shopping day

Even though many retailers opened their stores before dawn Friday, malls appeared relatively quiet. The number of people visiting shopping centers declined an estimated 19 percent from the day after Christmas last year, according to market research firm NPD Group, based on visits to 26 malls nationwide.

Kennedy: 'I have to work twice as hard'

Caroline Kennedy (right) said Friday that because of her lack of political experience, she has to prove she could fill Hillary Clinton's New York seat in the U.S. Senate. "I came into this thinking I have to work twice as hard as anybody else," the 51-year-old daughter of President Kennedy said.



Pakistan troops on the move

Pakistan began moving thousands of troops from the Afghan border toward India, officials and witnesses said Friday, raising tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors that reignited in the aftermath of last month's terror attack on the Indian financial capital of Mumbai.

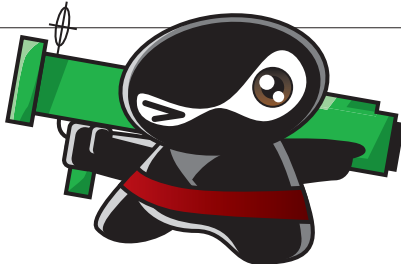


Think you can beat John?
E-mail redyeeditor@tribune.com
or text "John" and your e-mail
address to 32332.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE WITH JOHN WILLIAMS

Tune in to John's WGN (720-AM) show from 5 to 9 a.m.

27 min.



1	9	5	6	7	2	4	3	8
2	6	8	9	4	3	7	5	1
4	7	3	5	1	8	9	2	6
8	2	7	4	9	1	3	6	5
6	3	4	2	8	5	1	9	7
5	1	9	3	6	7	2	8	4
7	5	1	8	3	9	6	4	2
3	4	2	1	5	6	8	7	9
9	8	6	7	2	4	5	1	3

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

J	U	N	E	A	U	G	A	B	S	P	A	R
U	S	U	R	P	S	E	M	U	L	E	G	O
M	U	T	A	T	E	N	I	T	R	A	T	E
P	A	T	S	F	O	G	T	A	N	T	R	A
S	L	Y	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	
			I	L	L	T	I	M	E	D	C	A
B	O	A	S	T	S	I	S	E	S	A	R	A
E	M	U	L	A	T	E	T	S	E	T	S	E
E	A	S	E	W	A	G	E	T	A	H	O	E
T	N	T	F	E	R	O	C	I	T	Y		
			R	E	I	N	S	T	A	T	E	
			C	R	A	V	A	L	P	S	M	I
P	O	L	I	T	I	C	O	E	L	X	I	R
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S	E	A	T	S	O	T	F	I	N	E	S	T

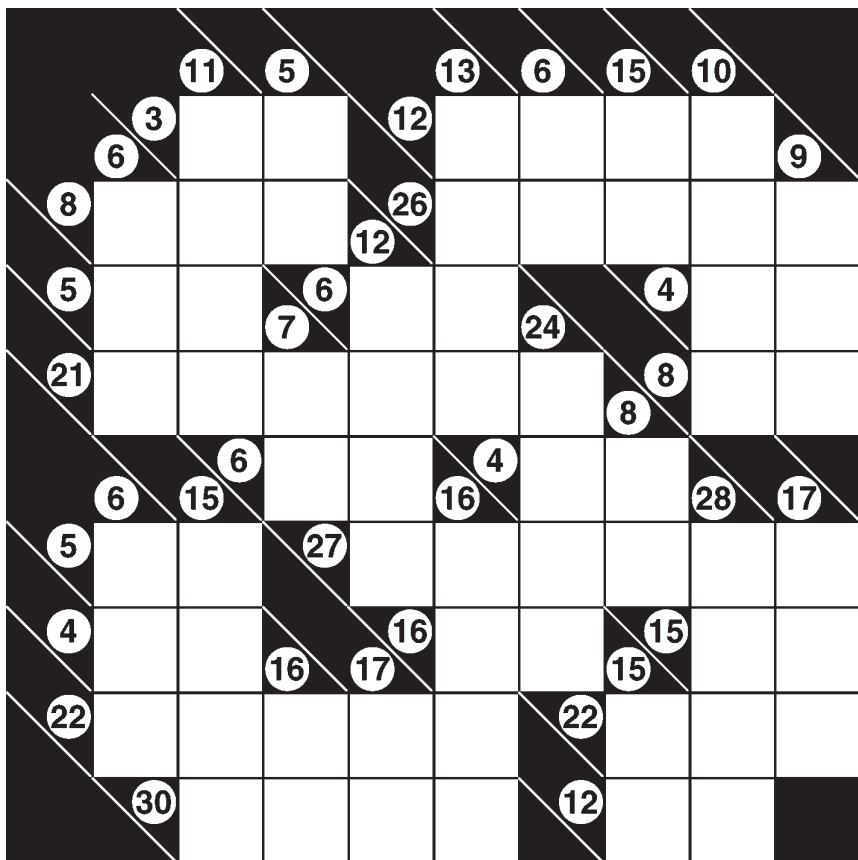
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

								4
		7	2	8			5	3
6			5	7				2
4			1	3				
	5						2	
				2	5			1
7				5	1			8
5	1			9	7	4		
3								

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

KAKURO EDITED BY MICHAEL MEPHAM

Enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares. The clues are the numbers in the white circles that give the sum of the solution numbers: above the line are across clues; below the line are down clues. Thus, a clue of 3 will produce a solution of 2 and 1, and a 5 will produce 4 and 1, or 2 and 3, but, of course, which squares they go in will depend on the solution of a clue in the other direction. No digit can be repeated in a solution. Answer at redevechicago.com/answers.



ACROSS

- 1 Chew the fat
- 5 United — Emirates
- 9 Picks out
- 14 Angelic aura
- 15 Rob or Chad
- 16 Missionary
- Junipero
- 17 Actor Estrada
- 18 Stable boy?
- 19 Attempts
- 20 Rapidity
- 22 Remove fat
- 24 Notices
- 25 Fourteen-line poem
- 27 Pastor's aide
- 29 Small, low islet
- 31 Of a forward part
- 34 Covered with
skin art
- 39 Coleridge's palace
- 40 Miscalculated
- 41 Puppy's bite
- 43 Rockies range
- 44 Practices recycling
- 46 Most lamblike
- 48 Sacred verbal
formulas
- 50 Educ. group
- 51 Hard Rock or
Luxor, e.g.
- 53 Indian instruments
- 58 Old streetcar
- 60 Solitary
- 62 Fragrant shrub
- 63 Couldn't stand
- 65 Chinese staple
- 67 Merrill or Meyer
- 68 Action site
- 69 Peter of
"The Monkees"
- 70 Border upon
- 71 Bird abodes
- 72 Tight
- 73 Kissing equipment

DOWN

- 1 Kasparov's game
- 2 Groucho's brother
- 3 Not from Earth
- 4 Small memento
- 5 Furry TV alien

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21		22			23		24		
25					26		27			28				
					29		30		31				32	33
34	35	36	37				38		39					
40						41		42		43				
44					45		46		47					
48						49		50						
			51				52		53		54	55	56	57
58	59				60			61		62				
63					64		65			66		67		
68							69					70		
71							72					73		

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 6 | Subterranean growth | 28 | Feature of a formal tuxedo | 52 | Vidalia veggie |
| 7 | Oscar, e.g. | 30 | Desire | 54 | Like some waves |
| 8 | Tenet | 32 | Fusses | 55 | Cover story |
| 9 | Mach+ jet | 33 | Fontanne's partner | 56 | Amassed |
| 10 | Staff | 34 | School period | 57 | Emulates Ella |
| 11 | Determine one's position | 35 | Vicinity | 58 | Better late __ never |
| 12 | Acacia or ash | 36 | Cuts short | 59 | Once in a blue moon |
| 13 | Give guff to | 37 | Old Bible? | 61 | Natural tone |
| 21 | Some cipher handlers | 38 | Excavate | 64 | German article |
| | | 42 | Get-up-and-go | 66 | Med. test |
| | | 45 | Jib, e.g. | | |
| 23 | "Das Kapital" writer | 47 | PMS | | |
| 26 | Chinese religion | 49 | Quick drinks | | |

SCRABBLE

Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, 3rd Edition.
Find the answer at redevechicago.com/answers.

E_1	U_1	H_4	C_3	L_1	S_1	Q_{10}

Triple
Word Score

RACK 1

A_1	A_1	E_1	E_1	N_1	C_3	M_3

RACK 2

A_1	A_1	U_1	L_1	R_1	D_2	G_2

RACK 3

A_1	E_1	Y_4	P_3	L_1	R_1	P_3

3rd Letter
Double

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 247

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

whoville

BY
JIM
WALSH



Home for the holidays

So have you heard how Miley Cyrus is spending New Year's Eve?

The "Hannah Montana" star is dropping in on one lucky fan to broadcast a New Year's special from his or her home. Specifically, she's going to be doing a performance straight from the fan's

bedroom, according to Us Weekly.

Weird? Totally.

But the whole idea of Cyrus performing from someone's home got us thinking about other celebs we'd like to have over for special occasions—and where we'd set up their shows.

IN THE BEDROOM ...

No one

Seriously, it's a little weird that a teen star is going to be performing from someone's bedroom.

What if the fan who wins the in-house Miley Cyrus appearance is 40? Just saying.

IN THE DEN ...

Hef and the girls

If we *had* a den, it'd be cool to sit in it and chat with Hugh Hefner and his new twin girlfriends. But only about the articles.

Their holiday: Halloween

IN THE LIVING ROOM ...

Stephen Colbert

The host of "The Colbert Report" was hilarious on his home-focused Christmas special. He could repeat that kind of magic in the coziest spot in the house.

His holiday: Presidents' Day.

IN THE GARAGE ...

Jay Leno

The "Tonight" show host is a total car nut, right? He could take a look under the hood and see what the deal is with the clicking noise our '97 Oldsmobile Achieva is making.

His holiday: April Fool's Day

IN THE KITCHEN ...

Rachael Ray

This one is a no-brainer. Did you know she has a recipe for wine-boiled spaghetti on her cooking show? That just sounds really delicious.

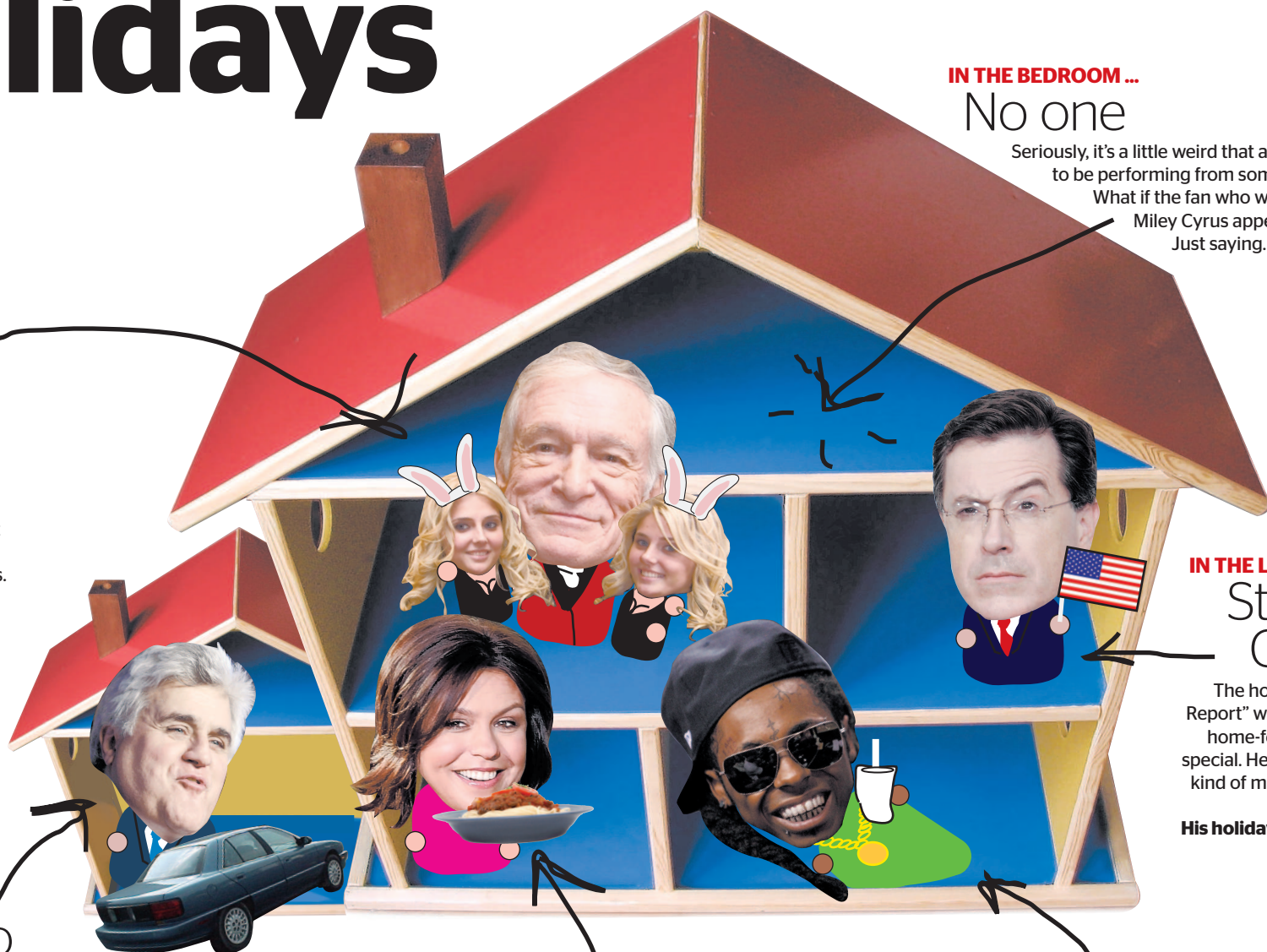
Her holiday: Thanksgiving

IN THE DINING ROOM ...

Lil Wayne

Honestly, it'd just be cool to see if the Grammy-nominated rapper would bring that Styrofoam cup he's always photographed drinking out of. What's in that cup?

His holiday: Rapsiving (Editor's note: This should be a real holiday.)



red hot

A Bronx Christmas

Sarah Jessica Parker at the London premiere of "Sex and the City."

AP FILE



You just can't put a price on baby photos.

Apparently that's what Pete Wentz and Ashlee Simpson-Wentz were thinking on Christmas Day. Instead of selling the first public photo of son Bronx Mowgli, born on Nov. 20, to magazines, the couple on Thursday posted a picture on friendsorenemies.com.

"We decided to share the best gift we could ever receive with you: Bronx Mowgli Wentz. We couldn't be happier," read a post on Fall Out Boy's blog. Wentz, who grew up in Wilmette, is the band's bassist.

The couple also asked fans to donate to three charities, including the foundation of fellow parents Nicole Richie and Joel Madden.

Best-dressed? Really?

Access Hollywood listed its best- and worst-dressed celebs of 2008, but RedEye thinks the show might want to take another look. Did the people who named Sarah Jessica Parker miss that silly hat she wore at the London premiere of her film "Sex and the City?"

BEST

1. Sarah Jessica Parker
2. Charlize Theron
3. Anne Hathaway
4. Rihanna
5. Gwyneth Paltrow

WORST

1. Katy Perry
2. Jessica Simpson
3. Mel B.
4. Solange Knowles
5. Madonna



Katy Perry
AP/GETTY
IMAGES



The real Jen

Jealous of Jennifer Aniston's sexy bod on the cover of GQ (above)? Don't worry—she had a little help looking that good. "It's Photoshopped!" Aniston, 39, admitted about the photo on Wednesday's "The View."

Co-host Joy Behar asked the "Marley & Me" co-star if she was tricked into getting naked during the shoot.

"They got me bombed," Aniston said.

On Thursday, Aniston was back in Beverly Hills, Calif., to celebrate Christmas at Mastro's Steakhouse with "Friends" friend Courteney Cox, her hubby, David Arquette, and their 4-year-old daughter, Coco, usmagazine.com said.

What's cookin'?

What's Chicagoan Stephanie Izard been up to since she won "Top Chef: Chicago" earlier this year?

"I get random hugs, shouts from cars," Izard tells food site epicurious.com. "I wake up in a different city every couple of days and I get to do all sorts of events ... I've been keeping really busy for someone who is technically unemployed."

Izard said she also plans to open a Chicago restaurant—called the Drunken Goat for her love of Spanish goat cheese—"late next summer."

As for who she thinks will win the current "Top Chef: New York," Izard picks Jamie Lauren of San Francisco and Europeans Stefan Richter and Fabio Viviani to be in the Top 3.

"I tried to get the inside scoop from people who do know the answer and nobody would blink at all," Izard said, "so I don't know if I'm right."

DIGIT

5,810 The number of voting members in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who were sent Oscar ballots on Friday. Nominations will be announced Jan. 22, and the 81st annual Academy Awards ceremony is set for Feb. 22.